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This thing, obviously, is intended to serve as a receptacle for truffles. But if yo don't have any truffles to put in it, you ca use it as a sugar-bowl, or to hold tea-bags, or candy, or what you will. This is the first time I ever tried to ma anything of this sort, which is my excuse fo the defects it has. (E.g., I made the raven's claws too strongly hooked, so that they look more like a hawk's talons; the varnish darkened peculiar grain of the wood more than I expected giving it a dirty appearance; etc., etc.)

If you wash the thing, you'd better wa it quickly and dry it immediately with a cloth otherwise the wood may absorb water, swell up then crack when it dries again.

A year and 2 thirds ago, when you

[illegible] VISA [illegible] me to
make you "some little curio", and I had a
weakness to say "yes". This, I hope, con-
stitutes fulfillment of contract.

Happy Birthday.

Ted